

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method for conditioning a substrate mass as claimed in claim ~~1~~33 wherein an evacuation system associated with one of the conducting elements is provided for removal of at least one conditioning material or a waste material or by-product from the substrate mass.

3. (Original) A method for conditioning a substrate mass as claimed in claim 2 wherein the evacuation system is in hydraulic and electrical continuity with the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure and a reservoir.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for conditioning a substrate mass as claimed in claim ~~1~~33 wherein the supply system is in hydraulic and electrical continuity with the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure and a reservoir.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~33 comprising ~~additionally~~ reversing the polarity of the conducting elements during the ~~method~~ application of a potential difference, or supplying conditioning material of different charge during the method.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~33 wherein the substrate is selected from soil, loam, earth, sod, clay, weak rock, gravel, stones, sewerage, sludge and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~33 wherein a conditioning material is selected from water, aqueous media or solutions, salts, nutrients, supplementary carbon

sources, supplementary oxygen sources, terminal electron acceptors, water retention materials, thickening materials, biomass, pH regulators, temperature regulators, minerals, reducing agents, oxidants, absorbents, metal particles, coated metal particles, non-metallic catalyst materials, grout, lime or mixtures thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~33 wherein a conditioning material is a substrate mass softening material and the method comprises the further step of either burying or retrieving an object in/from the softened substrate mass.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the softened substrate mass is returned to its former state after softening by reversing the potential difference between the conducting elements.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~33 wherein the substrate mass comprises a structural foundation, a sports pitch, a leisure site or a field and wherein water is supplied to the substrate mass via the supply system and/or removed from the substrate mass via the evacuation system to thereby control the moisture content of the substrate mass.

11. (Previously Submitted) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the substrate mass is soil, a conditioning material is a soil nutrient and the removed material is a soil contaminant, a by-product, excess water or a mixture thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~33 wherein a conditioning material is a decontaminant or contaminant absorbent.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein a second conditioning material is a contaminated material.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the decontaminant/contaminant absorbent conditioning material comprises a bacteria.

15. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~13~~ wherein the conditioning material is a cohesion inducing material.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~13~~ wherein the conditioning material comprises an electrolyte which serves to conduct a current between the elements to thereby kill contaminant bacteria in the substrate mass.

17. (Currently Amended) Substrate mass conditioning apparatus comprising an electrokinetic geosynthetic structure associated with at least one conducting element, said electrokinetic geosynthetic structure arranged for insertion into substrate mass without regard to any reinforcement or drainage function; at least one further conducting element; a supply system associated with one of the conducting elements for the supply of at least one conditioning material to be introduced into the substrate mass; and means for applying a potential difference between the conducting elements.

18. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 comprising an evacuation system associated with one of the conducting elements for removal of at least one conditioning material or of a waste material or by-product from the substrate mass.

19. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~17~~18 wherein the supply system and the ~~optional~~ evacuation system comprise respective reservoir(s) in hydraulic and electrical continuity with the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure.

20. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein at least one of said reservoirs is comprised within the substrate mass

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~17~~18 wherein the supply and/or ~~removal~~evacuation system comprises a pump.

22. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein one or more of said at least one further conducting element is a metallic non electrokinetic geosynthetic electrode.

23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises a solid body having a central core which serves as the supply system and/or reservoir and optionally as the evacuation system and/or reservoir.

24. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises a pure or composite metallic or a conducting non-metallic.

25. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises one or more lines of spaced elongate conducting members.

26. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises a reinforcing element

27. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure provides a longitudinal axis and the reinforcing element comprises at least one high

strength elongate element running parallel to the longitudinal axis of the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure.

28. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises a non-conductive material with conductive material running through it at least partially on a surface of the structure.

29. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure is in the form of a continuous elongate tube, tape or rope.

Claims 30, 31 and 32 (canceled).

33. (New) A method for conditioning a substrate mass comprising the steps of:

- positioning an electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprising geosynthetic material with at least one conducting element associated therewith within a substrate mass without regard to any reinforcement or drainage function;
- positioning at least one additional conducting element within the substrate mass such that electrolyte material is located between the conducting element of the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure and said additional conducting element;
- associating a supply system with one of the conducting elements for supplying conditioning material to be introduced into the substrate mass; and
- applying a potential difference between the conducting elements which act as respective electrodes, thereby supplying conditioning material to the substrate mass.

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34. (New) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises a solid body have a central core which serves as the supply system and/or reservoir and optionally as the evacuation system and/or reservoir.